States/UT Governments asking them not to book cases for violation these labeling provisions during the initial period of three months of implementation of the provisions of the said notification.

Ready to use therapeutic food

3724. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new branded food in the name 'ready to use therapeutic food' has been imported into the country by international agencies worth crores of rupees;

(b) if so, the details of the importing agencies and its timing;

(c) whether this has been supplied to different States of the country;

(d) whether this was done within the ambit of national policy and approval of the Union Government; and

(e) what is the action being taken by Government to prevent such commercialization of child malnutrition and to ensure necessary regulation of international aid/assistance in future?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) As per information received from the Ministry of Women and Child Development, 'Ready To Use Therapeutic Food' (RUTF), costing approximately Rs.11.5 crores, was imported by UNICEF India into the country between August 2008 and January 2009.

RUTF was supplied and used in Madhya Pradesh and Bihar to treat children with severe acute malnutrition.

(d) RUTF was used in Bihar and Madhya Pradesh without any request or approval of Government of India. Use of RUTF is not a policy of Government of India.

(e) The whole issue was examined in consultation with the Ministry of External Affairs. UNICEF has been directed to discontinue the use of RUTF and ship the stocks out of the country. UNICEF has further been asked not to act on any requests received directly by them, from State Governments. Disbursal of medicines and other health and family welfare related supplies be made under the supervision of the State Health and Family Welfare authorizes with the knowledge/concurrence of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Expansion of Government hospitals in Delhi

†3725. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Government hospitals in Delhi wherein various departments have been expanded during the last three years alongwith the details of total number of hospitals and the number of beds increased therein; and

(b) the details of total number of Government hospitals in Delhi for treatment of children

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.